

## MINUTES

The Rogers City Council met in *regular session* in the Council Chambers of the Maurice H. Kolman City Hall Building and via virtual meeting space ZOOM on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Greg Hines. Welcomes Boy Scout Troop 107 to earn a merit badge. Invocation by Robert Haynes of the Joppa House.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

None

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Lauren Hildreth with BikeNWA presented the Slow Street program to the City Council. The program was created because of the need for more social distancing space outdoors due to the pandemic. Parks being closed and the trail system usage increased more than 200%. The pilot project started in May in Bentonville and rolled out programs since in all major NWA cities. Connecting the east & west side of 71B down Oak St. because they don't currently have trail access and experiment to see how the future sidewalk space on the road will be utilized. Intersection between 5<sup>th</sup> & Pine St. since September 4<sup>th</sup> have shown 1000+ pedestrians and cyclist going through this intersection. 90% of survey participants have visited a downtown business while using the route. 60% of survey participants are using to explore the downtown area and offerings.

Kruger, questioned 18 responses to the survey. Hildreth, correct. In 3 weeks that has been typical from our reporting. Kruger, thinks this should have gone through the Transportation Committee. Checked it out for himself for the first time during the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of the program. In favor of walkers and cyclist, but until the construction and detours downtown are completed, this is not a good route. The newspaper described route being more in neighborhoods and approve more of that rather than being on busier streets. Difficulty turning in some places due to sign placement. In favor of cyclist, but not at the impediment of motorized vehicles.

Hildreth, address some thing we can alter regarding turning radius for trucks/ larger vehicles and will continue to do so for better turning ability.

Reithemeyer, personal victim of almost being rear-ended by a car on Cypress & 13<sup>th</sup> Street, again because of stop sign no one could see. Oak St. is not a proper venue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street is not a proper venue. Getting to her office on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. & Elm St. has been difficult due to sign placement. Main concern is this did not go through Transportation Committee or the council and something of this magnitude should have been brought to the council's attention.

Mayor, asks if anyone else has a comment. Reithemeyer, not against cyclist but city has spent millions of dollars on trails for this purpose and once there is infrastructure downtown fine to put in the neighborhoods. And having a counter at 5<sup>th</sup> St. & Pine is not a true reflection if you are trying to capture what is happening on the west of 71B. Unless going to park by the library it has become more of a deterrent and afraid someone will be killed due to the poor placement of the signs.

Hildreth, the program is can be adjusted to better utilize the offering to each city. All of the feedback makes everything better and gives the program the opportunity to make the correct adjustments for safety. In the 16 weeks the program has been operating, there have been no reported safety incidents. Acknowledges Mrs. Reithemeyer's concern of the stop sign placement at Cypress & 13<sup>th</sup> St. as it was provided by the City of Rogers Street Department and have heard requests for a permanent stop sign placement. People are slamming through there and running the stop sign and concerned it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend Reithemeyer has almost been rear-ended. Reithemeyer reiterates concern this program was not brought in front of the Transportation Committee.

Mayor, appreciate Hildreth giving insight and lots of discussion has taken place internally to

make this a successful program for the city. Not sure this was required to go in front of the Transportation Committee but the legal department can way in if the process was interrupted.

Mcclure, favor of the recommendation for the alley way project with WXY Design.

Public forum closed.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Kruger, Betsy Reithemeyer, Gary Townzen, Marge Wolf, Clay Kendall, Jerry Carmichael, Barney Hayes, and Mandy Brashear were present.

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Staff Attorney Bonnie Bridges, City Attorney Andrew Hatfield, Director of Community Development John McCurdy, Fire Chief Tom Jenkins, Water Utilities Superintendent Brent Dobler, Director of Finance Casey Wilhelm, Arts Coordinator Anna Watson, Director or Parks & Recreation Jim White, Police Chief Hayes Minor, City Planner Ethan Hunter, Planning Commissioner Mandel Samuels, Assistant to the Mayor Carey Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator Peter Masonis, and Records Administrator Jennifer Moore.

**ACTION ON MINUTES:**

(September 8, 2020)

Motion by Townzen, second by Wolf to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020 as submitted.

Voice vote: Yes. ***Motion carried.***

**Approves** the suspending of rules for the meeting.

Motion by Kruger, second by Wolf to suspend the rules to consider all items on the agenda on a single reading and by title only.

Roll call: Unanimous – Yes. ***Motion carried.***

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:**

(Agenda Item #1)

**RES. #20-74.** Scheduling A Public Hearing Concerning The Vacation Of A Portion Of An Alley Between West Walnut Street And West Maple Street

The resolution was introduced by Kruger and read by title only by City Attorney Andrew Hatfield.

Kruger, chair of Transportation Committee, reported the committee had met, recommended

to “Do pass” and recognized Project Engineer Lance Jobe. Old alley in place east of 8<sup>th</sup> St., north of Walnut – adjacent to old Best Sports and Somewhere in Time business. No utilities and no need foreseen. Working through Walnut widening project and the owner requested the alley be vacated.

Kruger, to schedule the public hearing which I think would be Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. Mayor, be the 13<sup>th</sup>.

No questions from the council.

Motion by Hayes, second by Townzen to adopt the resolution.

Voice vote: *Unanimous* – Yes. The resolution is *adopted*.

(Agenda Item #2)

**RES. R20-75.** Authorizing The Mayor And City Clerk To Enter Into A Contract With WXY Of New York City, New York, For Design Services Of A Master Plan For The Downtown Rogers Alleyways Improvement Project

The resolution was introduced by Brashear and read by title only by City Attorney Andrew Hatfield.

Brashear, chair of Community Services Committee, reported the committee had met, recommended a “Do pass” and spoke to the program.

Brashear, steering committee created to help create master plan alley ways to be an activated space for business use and community enjoyment. Steering committee unanimously approved WXY Design.

Mayor, steering committee much appreciated and implementation of the plans will coincide with ongoing plans.

Kruger, thanks the committee and the Walton Family Foundation. Qualified companies in our community and would like to see more of those being taken into account rather than firms from outside the community.

Mayor, reminded the design excellence program and company must be approved by the program and we are listed to using who is on the list.

Encourages local firms to apply to be part of the design excellence program list.

No questions from the council.

Motion by Kruger, second by Kendall to adopt the resolution.

Voice vote: *Unanimous* – Yes. The resolution is *adopted*.

(Agenda Item #3)

**RES. R20-76.** Authorizing The Mayor And City Clerk To Enter Into A Grant Agreement With The Walton Family Foundation To Accept Grant Funds Up To \$229,000.00

The resolution was introduced by Brashear and read by title only by City Attorney Andrew Hatfield.

Brashear, chair of Community Services Committee, reported the committee had met, recommended a “Do pass” and recognized Parks and Recreation Director Jim White.

White, addition to a grant for the RailYard Bike Park. Thanks to the Community Development for design and work with the foundation.

No questions from the council.

Motion by Kruger, second by Carmichael to adopt the resolution.

Voice vote: *Unanimous* – Yes. The resolution is *adopted*.

(Agenda Item #4)

**RES. R20-77.** Authorizing The City Of Rogers Fire Department To Enter Into An Informal Agreement With The Rogers School District Allowing Off-Duty Paramedics To Substitute As Nurses On An As Needed Basis

The resolution was introduced by Wolf and read by title only by City Attorney Andrew Hatfield.

Wolf, chair of Public Safety Committee, reported the committee had met, recommended a “Do pass” and recognized Fire Chief Tom Jenkins.

Jenkins, contacted by the Rogers Public Schools 5 weeks ago due to deficiency of school nurses. Cost neutral for the city and paramedics can fill in where needed at the schools.

Wolf, wonderful offering to our community.  
Kendal echo win win for all.

No questions from the council.

Motion by Wolf, second by Kendall to adopt  
the resolution.

Voice vote: *Unanimous* – Yes. The resolution  
is *adopted*.

(Agenda Item #5)

**RES. R20-78.** . Authorizing The Rate Of  
Property Tax For The City Of Rogers For The  
Year 2020 To Be Collected In 2021

The resolution was introduced by Reithemeyer  
and read by title only by City Attorney Andrew  
Hatfield.

Reithemeyer, chair of Finance Committee,  
reported the committee had met, recommended  
a “Do pass” and added there this is the same  
rate as the previous year and will be no increase  
for the citizens. Recognized Finance Director  
Casey Wilhelm.

Wilhelm, correct this is the current rate and will  
not include an increase.

No questions from the council.

Motion by Reithemeyer, second by Wolf to  
adopt the resolution.

Voice vote: *Unanimous* – Yes. The resolution  
is *adopted*.

(Agenda Item #6)

**ORD. #20-82.** Amending Rogers Code Section  
14-675 By Re-Zoning Certain Lands From R-  
SF To C-2 (Valdez)

The ordinance was introduced by Carmichael  
and read by title only by City Attorney Andrew  
Hatfield.

Carmichael, chair of Community Environment  
& Welfare Committee, reported the committee  
had met, recommended to “Do pass” and  
recognized representative Will Kellstrom.

Bates, new owner of the property would like to  
see these 2 parcels zoned as commercial to align  
with the comprehensive growth map.

No questions from the council.

The Mayor asked, “Shall the ordinance pass?”  
Roll call: *Unanimous* – Yes. The ordinance is *adopted*.

(Agenda Item #7)

**ORD. #20-83.** Amending Rogers Code Section 14-675 By Re-Zoning Certain Lands From C-2 To I-1 (Panchal)

The ordinance was introduced by Carmichael and read by title only by City Attorney Andrew Hatfield.

Carmichael, chair of Community Environment & Welfare Committee, reported the committee had met, recommended to “Do pass” and recognized representative Sunil Panchal.

Panchal, use this as an opportunity to diversify and build business. Hopeful for your support.

No questions from the council.

The Mayor asked, “Shall the ordinance pass?”  
Roll call: *Unanimous* – Yes. The ordinance is *adopted*.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORD. #20-84.** Accepting The Final Plat Of Wire Ridge Subdivision In Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas, The Dedication Of Utility Easements And Other Public Ways Therein

The ordinance was introduced by Kruger and read by title only by City Attorney Andrew Hatfield.

Mayor, council has had opportunity to review.  
No questions from the council.

The Mayor asked, “Shall the ordinance pass?”  
Roll call: *Unanimous* – Yes. The ordinance is *adopted*.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Incredible appreciation to all those in on our City staff and all the amazing work they’ve continued to provide.

Sales tax numbers are positive and happy to see we are on a good path forward.

Brashear, encourage Parks to reopen. Voter registration day is today and encourages everyone to vote.

Mayor, parks are reopen as of today. There is no safe way to do it and was waiting to see how the school reopening has been. Appropriate time for people to make the risk choice for themselves to use our amenities but the CDC and other government programs are still encouraging the closure of playground structures.

Reithemeyer, appreciate s the open dialogue and questions if there will be an address of the Slow Streets program.

Mayor, enhancements can take place in hopes the program will continue on through our commitment time. If there is an overwhelming feeling from the council that this should have gone through the Transportation Committee, happy to discuss with legal department on steps going forward.

Reithemeyer, clarity of Slow Street program. Mayor, through the end of October.

Carmichael, reiterate opening of parks. Announce on the city website the parks are reopen and each person's accord. Great sales tax numbers. Appreciate all the great staff we have working for our city.

Kruger, appreciates all the great work being done for the city. Reiterates Reithemeyer concerns of the Slow Streets and encourages those looking at the placement of the route to stay away from the downtown construction.

There being no further business, motion by Kruger, second by Wolf to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Jessica Rush, City Clerk-Treasurer

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C. Greg Hines, Mayor